

K. Hudson (G.)

Ms. 1, 2

AN
EPISTLE

OF
LOVE N^o 94

TO
FRIENDS,

Especially to the YOUTH,

BY WAY OF

Tender ADVICE

AND

CAUTION.

Isa. 5. 4. What could have been done more to my Vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore when I looked that it should bring forth Grapes, brought it forth wild Grapes?

L O N D O N :

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belongs to our Meeting

AN
EPISTLE
OF
TO NEW
FRIENDS
Tender Advice
AND
CUTION



Printed and sold by the Author of the
at the Office of the Secretary of State
in the Strand, London.

A N
EPISTLE

OF
LOVE, &c.

Dear Friends,

THE Lord, in his great Love,
hath call'd us out from other
Gatherings, and made known his
Power, by which the Hearts of a
Remnant have been made willing
to deny themselves of the *Sinful Plea-
sures* of this World, that these things,
by which the Lord is *grieved*, might
be done away; for the Lord our
God is a God of *Judgment* and of

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great

great Mercy, and long Suffering : Oh ! my Friends, that the living and sweet Sense of It might ever remain with us, that by it we might be preserved to the End, shewing forth his Praise : But through want of keeping Humble, in waiting upon the Lord, to feel the Renewings of his living Presence ; many have lost their Conditions, and the vain Delights of this World have taken Place, that Iniquity hath abounded, by which that true Love to God and one to another is grown cold. The Desire of my Heart is, that all such may Search and Try their Ways, and see how it is with them, and Turn again unto the Lord ; for he is gracious and merciful, slow to Anger, and of great Kindness.

Dear Friends, whatever Outside Appearance there may be, the Living God sees us All as we are, there is no hiding from him. The Way of Truth is the same as ever it was, and if the
Truth

Truth make us *free*, then shall we be *free* indeed, then shall we be a *Joy* and *Comfort* one to another in the Lord, then will that Pernicious Evil *Weed*, which is **P R I D E**, be *rooted out*, then shall we have *True Comfort*; *Comforting* one another in the Lord; then our *Discourses* will be to the *Edifying* of each other.

You know, *Friends*, there hath been a *godly Concern*, in the Minds of some of the Lord's People; That *Vain* and *Superfluous Dresses* in *Apparel* be laid aside, which are *shameful* to our *Christian Profession*, in both Men and Women, with other *Evil Doings*, which cause the *Way of Truth* to be *evil spoken of*, and our *Enemies* to rejoyce against us. Take heed, *Friends*, lest by *long Continuance* in *Fleshly Liberty*, the *Sense of True Judgment* be *lost*, and the *Heart*, which once was *tender*, become *hardned*.

It's *Jacob's Seed* the Lord hath *promised* shall not be *Consumed*, which wrestleth for a *Blessing*: It is the careless and slothful, that will not be concerned to enjoy the Lord's *Power*, that *tenders* the Heart, and makes Man sensible of his Condition, and gives to all Men a *Gift* or *Portion* of his *Spirit*, by which they may see themselves to be altogether *helpless* without him, by which there is a *living* Concern to give up their Hearts to the Lord, to feel *Judgment* upon all that is for Judgment. The Promise of the Lord was of Old, That he would cause his *Judgments* to rest for a *Light* unto the People: The true hearted Man of God, *David*, declares, *I will praise thee with Uprightness of Heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous Judgments*, Psal. 119. Ver. 7. Again, Ver. 30. *I have chosen the Way of Truth;*

Truth; thy Judgments I have laid before me.

My Friends, you that are *Elders* in the Church, that a true *living Concern* may remain upon you, for your *Continuance* in the Way of Truth; then you will be *Concerned* for your *Children*, that they may be *Preserved* in the same: What great Joy had the Apostle *John*! when he heard that his *Children walked* in the Truth.

Oh that *Living Breathings* might more and more be fervently put up to the Lord! for the *Preservation* of the *Youth* in our Day: How mournful is *Rachael* represented by the Prophet! *Jer. 31. 15. Lamenting and Weeping* for her Children; refusing to be *Comforted*, because they were not. And whether her *Lamentation* and *Weeping* as a *Mother* for the Loss of her Children, was, because of *Israel's Outward Captivity* in *Babylon*, *Jer. 31.* or, because of *He-*

rod's causing all the *Children* in *Beth-lehem* and the Coasts thereof, under *two Years old*, to be *slain* (designing to kill the Child *Jesus*, Matth. 2.) How much greater Cause of Lamentation and Weeping is it, to tender *religious* Mothers and Parents, to see any of their Children taking *Evil Courses* and Ways leading to *spiritual Captivity* and *Bondage*, under the Power of *Sin* and *Satan*, unto Everlasting *Destruction*! *Israel's 70 Years Captivity* was only *Temporary*, and the *Death* of the Children, caused by *Herod*, was also only *Temporal*; but the *Punishment* of *Impenitent Sinners* is *Perpetual*; therefore much more to be Lamented.

My Friends, there are many living Testimonies recorded, in the holy Scriptures, for our Incouragement, that we might persevere on in the Way of *Righteousness*, and that which is more excellent, the Pure Wit-

Witness of God in our own Hearts,
witnessing against all *Unrighteous*
Ways and Doings whatsoever.

Dear Friends, you that are *Young*,
with whom the Lord is *striving* to
gain you from the Evil of this
World, and to make you Vessels of
Honour fit for the *Service* of God: My
Desire is, that you would be pre-
vailed with, to be *Humbled* under
his mighty Hand, which is stretch-
ed out to gather you near to himself.
And a godly *Concern* there hath been
upon many of the *faithful Elders*,
some that are removed from amongst
us, and others that yet remain, to
Advise you to walk in *Humility*, that
you might enjoy the Benefit of E-
verlasting Life, which all worldly
things are not worthy to be compa-
red with, for there is no lasting Com-
fort therein: But in the sweet comfort-
able Presence of the Lord, which is
very near to the *Humble*, and is
their

their Strength in all their Troubles,
which are many.

In True and *tender Love* I write
these Lines to you, desiring they
may be received in the same Love;
for I may truly say, my Heart hath
been *sad* many a Time, for the *young*
rising Generation; seeing what
wrong Liberty there is taken, run-
ning into the Evil Ways of the
World, and Fashioning your selves, in
your *Dresses* according to your own
Vain Minds: Oh that you did see
your Condition, and might receive
the *Truth* in the Love of it, while
the Lord in *Mercy* is *Striving* with
you, that you would not be asham-
ed to own the Truth before Men!
Remember, my *Friends*, that all our
Strength is in the Lord, and he will
not fail you; he pitieth the Tender
hearted as a tender Father pitieth his
Children, and he *Resisteth* the Proud,
but giveth more Grace to the *Hum-
ble*. Oh that all did know, how
sweet

sweet and comfortable the Lord is ! administering *Comfort* to the *true Mourners*.

You that have Tender Parents, what great Joy and Comfort will it be to them, to see you come to *walk* in the Way of *Righteousness* ! and what Grief and deep Sorrow will it be to them, to see you go in the Way of *Death* ! making them, it may be, go to their Graves in Sorrow upon your Accouts : Therefore be you all Advised to walk in *Watchfulness*, shunning all manner of Evil Ways, and Evil Company what you can ; and when amongst them, see that your Conversation be according to what you make Profession of : Remember to take the Counsel of the Lord ; *Isai. 51. 7, 8. Hearken unto me, ye that know Righteousness, the People in whose Heart is my Law, fear you not the Reproach of Men, neither be afraid of their Revilings : For the Moth shall eat them up like a Garment,*
and

*and the Worms shall eat them like Wool :
But my Righteousness shall be for ever,
and my Salvation from Generation to
Generation.*

You that are Tender, Read you the *Scriptures*, and consider what sweet and comfortable Promises there are, for Incouragement to Travel on in the Way of *Righteousness*, the End thereof is, a *Crown of Life* for ever.

There have been, many Times, great *Exercises* upon my Mind, to give forth a few Lines in the *Love* of God, desiring that the good End of it, for which I write, may be accomplished, to the *Honour* of God, and the *Prosperity* of all in the blessed *Truth* for ever.

When I was very *Young* in Years, in the Midst of Youthful *Vanity*, my Heart hath been made *Sad*, and I was made willing, by the *Grace* of God wherewith the Lord did visit me, to part with those things, which I
see

fee to be Evil : Yet, I had not the Benefit, which many of you have, of being *Educated* under tender Parents, which is a great Mercy from the Lord, and ought to be Improved. But if you will flight all these *Visitations*, and go on in your *own Evil Ways*, the Time will come, that your Hearts will be *Hardned*, and these, that have a tender Regard for your *Good*, will be *grieved* for your Sakes, and you may bring upon yourselves that *Misery*, that you may never be clear of.

From one that Sincerely desires the *Happiness* of all, both *Old* and *Young* ; concludes your Truly *Loving, Affectionate Friend*,

George Stidston.

London, the 9th of the
9th Month, 1717.

The

The Author's POST-
SCRIPT, *more ge-*
neral, to Friends.

DEAR *Friends*, although it hath been the Lot of the Lord's People, to *Suffer* for Righteousness Sake in this World; yet, this hath been their *Happiness*, that in their Faithfulness they have found Favour with God and Men; I desire it may be an Incouragement to all, to Persevere in the Way of the Lord, although it is a narrow Way to the *Nature* of Flesh and Blood; yet, the End of it will be a Crown of Joy for ever. Look not out at the Vain Delights of this evil World, which will shortly come to an End: Be often thinking upon the Lord, waiting to feel the Comforts of his Love, in
which

which you will have cause to say one to another; Their is no Comfort like the sweet and comfortable Presence of the Lord: You will surely find that the Lord will make hard things Easy, and rough Ways Plain; *his Ways are Ways of Pleasantness, all his Paths are Paths of Peace: He is the chiefest of Ten Thousand, he is altogether Lovely: Be concerned to Sit under his Shadow with great Delight, and his Fruit will be sweet to your Taste.* Let us be Faithful unto Death, that we may obtain a Crown of Life, which never Fadeth away. These few Lines, in the Love of the Lord, sprung in my Heart towards you.

G. S.

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